

3. An elevator system as defined in claim 2, wherein the suspension rope is coupled at its first and second ends to [within] an upper portion of the hoistway.

✓ 4. An elevator system as defined in claim 2, further including at least one elevator sheave coupled to an underside of the elevator car, a deflector sheave coupled within an upper portion of the hoistway, and a counterweight sheave coupled to a top portion of the counterweight, the suspension rope having its first and second ends coupled to [within] an upper portion of the hoistway, the suspension rope extending downwardly from its first end, underslinging the elevator car via the elevator sheave, extending upwardly and looping about the deflector sheave, extending downwardly and looping about the counterweight sheave and extending upwardly and terminating at its second end.

Please add new Claims 16-28.

✓ --16. An elevator system comprising:
an elevator hoistway;
an elevator car located in the hoistway; and
a drive motor located at a bottom portion of the hoistway, the drive motor being coupled to the elevator car ^(no crn) via at least one flat rope for moving the elevator car along the hoistway, wherein the at least one flat rope includes a suspension rope coupled to the elevator car and a drive rope engaging the drive motor for moving the elevator car.

✓ 17. An elevator system as defined in claim 16, wherein the suspension rope is coupled at its first and second ends to an upper portion of the hoistway.

✓ 18. An elevator system as defined in claim 16, further including at least one car sheave coupled to the elevator car, the suspension rope having its first and second ends coupled to an upper portion of the hoistway, the suspension rope extending downwardly and engaging the elevator car via the car sheave.

✓ 19. An elevator system as defined in claim 16, further including a deflector sheave located at a lower portion of the hoistway, and wherein the drive rope is engaged with the elevator car, the drive rope extending downwardly from the car, looping about the drive sheave, extending toward and looping about the deflector sheave.

✓ 20. An elevator system as defined in claim 19, further including a tension applying mechanism for imparting a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taut condition.

21. An elevator system as defined in claim 20, wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a weight suspended from a tension spring, and a rigid connector pivotally coupled at a first end to the drive sheave, coupled at a second end to the weight and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, whereby the weight imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taught condition.

X 22. An elevator system as defined in claim 20, wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a rigid connector having first and second ends, the rigid connector being pivotally coupled at its first end to the drive sheave and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, and a tension spring coupled at a lower end within a lower portion of the hoistway and at an upper end to the second end of the rigid connector, whereby the spring imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taught condition.

X 23. An elevator system as defined in claim 16, further including a deflector sheave located at a lower portion of the hoistway, and wherein the drive rope extends downwardly from the elevator car, looping about the drive sheave, extending toward and looping about the deflector sheave and extending toward and looping about the drive sheave, extending toward and looping about the deflector sheave.

X 24. An elevator system as defined in claim 23, further including a tension applying mechanism for imparting a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taut condition.

(Handwritten mark) 25. An elevator system as defined in claim 24, wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a weight suspended from a tension spring, and a rigid connector pivotally coupled at a first end to the drive sheave, coupled at a second end to the weight and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, whereby the weight imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taught condition.

(Handwritten mark) 26. An elevator system as defined in claim 24, wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a rigid connector having first and second ends, the rigid connector being pivotally coupled at its first end to the drive sheave and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, and a tension spring being coupled at a lower end within a lower portion of the hoistway and at an upper end to the second end of the rigid connector, whereby the spring imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taught condition.

27. An elevator system as defined in claim 16, wherein the suspension rope and the drive rope include non-metallic fiber material.

28. An elevator system as defined in claim 16, wherein the suspension rope and the drive rope include urethane.--

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 18, 2000. Claims 1-15 were pending in the Application. Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 13 and 14 were rejected and Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 were objected to in the Office Action. Claim 15 was withdrawn from consideration as part of an election in response to a restriction requirement. After amendment, Claims 2-14 remain pending and reconsideration of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested in view of the traversal that follows. In addition, new claims 16-28 have been added by this amendment.

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Specifically, the term "within" has